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Annex "A," Subparagraph 3h,
Economic Background

FORCED LABOR

I. INTRODUCTION

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697 "Reform-through-labor" has been the official declared policy since the beginning of the establishment of the Communist regime in China: it is stipulated in the Common Programme[1] of the Chinese People's Political Conference, Mao Tse-tung's On People's Democratic Dictatorship,[2] and in the Constitution of the People's Republic of China,[3] promulgated in September 1954. In these three most important documents[4] as well as in other official documents,

1. Common Programme, Foreign Language Press, Peking, 1950, Article 7, p. 4.

2. Mao Tse-tung, On People's Democratic Dictatorship, Foreign Language Press, Peking, 1950, p. 18.

3. Constitution of the People's Republic of China, Foreign Language Press, Peking, 1954, Article 19.

4. Regulations Concerning the Establishment of People's Court in Five-Anti Campaign, Jen-min Jih-pao, Peking, March 24, 1952; Regulations Concerning the Establishment of People's Court in Three-Anti Campaign, Jen-min Jih-pao Mar. 30, 1952; Agrarian Reform Law, Foreign Language Press, Peking, 1950, Article 10.

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466 in forced labor would be around 11,8 million.
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According to the "Regulations Governing Reform-through-Labor" passed and promulgated by the Government Administration Council in August, 1954, there are four types of agencies carrying out reform-through-labor: detention houses, prisons, reform-through-labor corps, and institutions for juvenile delinquents. The detention houses and the prisons are to be established on and above the hsien level. There are 448 municipalities and hsien in East China[7] and it is very conservative to say that there are 448 official agencies carrying out reform-through-labor in that region. The movements of the prisoners in the detention houses and prisons are restricted, and they are employed in indoor occupations, while the reform-through-labor corps may be transferred and are allocated according to the needs of national economic planning.

466 The importance of the above policy of "reform-through-labor" is intentionally

6. (continued) Nationalist Party, December 1954, p. 17.

7. Jen-min Shou-ts'e [People's Handbook], Tientsin, Ta-kung Pao, 1955, pp. 230-39.

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73/653 had been completed in July 1955.[26]

All the reports from Mainland China and some from Hong Kong praised what the project had done for the improvement of living conditions of the people in the Hwai River area. Such reports imply that the millions of peasants who continue to toil on the banks of the river for a few bowls of rice a day have no reason to complain.

III. "REFORM-THROUGH-LABOR" IN EAST CHINA

A. Reform-through-Labor Camps in Shanghai

697/466 As a result of the drive for suppression of counterrevolutionaries which started in the Spring of 1951 and the Three-Anti and Five-Anti campaigns which followed, the number of prisoners sentenced to reform-through-labor reached 200,000 in Shanghai by the end of that year. Reform-through-labor camps are scattered all over the suburbs of the big city. Most of the prisoners are employed in municipal constructions, road building, and light industries. The following is an example given by the Communists through the official channel New China

26. Hua-ch'iao Jih-pao [China Daily News], New York, Aug. 5, 1955, p. 2.

697 News Agency showing how much the Communists
466 had done for one ex-prisoner:

Tao Chieh, a criminal in Shanghai, after reform-through-labor, achieved a change in his ideology and cultivated the habit of labor. When he was released at the expiration of his term and returned to his home, his wife wrote to the reform-through-labor organ, saying, "When my husband returned home, all our neighbors declared that he had changed and made progress. I feel that the People's Government had not only changed my husband but has brought happiness to our whole famil."[27]

The fact that reports in Taiwan and Hong Kong about life in the Shanghai reform-through-labor camps differ from this official report shows that the latter may be a Communist falsification. One of the Taiwan reports described the life in the Shanghai labor camp as miserable. The report said that the prisoners had to perform dirty work such as sewer dredging, public-lavatory cleaning, and refuse-removing under bayonets. When the prisoners did not show much liking for their work, they

27. NCNA, Peking, March 30, 1955; quoted from Survey of China Mainland Press, April 1, 1955.

697 were reminded that they were counterrevolutionaries
466 and should work hard.[28]

B. Rebirth Village in North of Kiangsu

North of the Yangtze River in Kiangsu Province, there are millions of acres of alluvial soil forming new land along the sea-coast of that province. The Rebirth Village was started in the spring of 1950 by the People's Government of Shanghai. Within little more than one year, a whole "new town" had been built in this ast, inhospitable region with 10,000 mou (about 1,518 acres) of cultivated land. The center of the Rebirth Village is in Ssu-ch'a-ho with a transportation system of new highways and new canals built by the villagers. Inside the Rebirth Village, there are all kinds of small-scale industries such as blacksmiths, wood and bamboo works, hosiery works, and sewing factories. According to Communist report, the people in the nearby villages have come to call the new- born city "New Shanghai."

28. Li, T'ien-min, Wu-nien-lai Chung-kung P'o-hai Jen-ch'üan Chi-shih [A Factual Account of the Violation of Human Rights by the Chinese Communists in the Last Five Years 1949-54] Taiwan, March 1955, p. 29.

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466 The labor of the Rebirth Village had been supplied by the criminals and unemployed "vagrants" of Shanghai. Apparently, the latter category includes people who were forced to evacuate from the urban area of Shanghai, then the largest industrial and commercial city in the whole of China, during the slump period after the Communists came in. In addition to light industries, these immigrants were forcibly employed in cultivating cotton fields, drilling wells, and reforesting the seacoast. The main product of the Rebirth Village is cotton. In 1951, the villagers planted 6,800 mou (about 1,143 acres) of cotton fields which produced 3,500 tan [192.5 tons] of cotton with an average of 50 catties (55 pounds) per mou (1/5 acre), 20 per cent above the average in the neighboring villages. With the improvement of irrigation and soil, the Communists hope to supply most of Shanghai's needs in its textile industry in the future.[29]

C. Sung-chiang State Farm

The Sung-chiang State Farm is one of hundreds of state farms spread all over East China, where forced labor is employed. On

29. Chieh-fang Jih-pao [Liberation Daily], Shanghai, Oct. 6, 1951, p. 2.

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• 697 466 the farm, the usual Communist methods of increasing production were used, such as emulation drives and elections of model workers for higher achievement in production. The activists among the prisoners offered to take care of nine mou (about 1.3 acres) of land as the norm for each person. Through challenges and responses the norm was raised to 15 mou (about 2.3 acres) for each worker. At first, they had no oxen for plowing. Twelve workers were organized into one plowing team and work with their bare hands. In the first winter, among 360 laborers, 7 of them died of cold and 24 became disabled because of severe frost-bites.[30]

According to a report from Taiwan, most of the reform-through-labor corps in East China are working the 718 state farms, totaling 568,000 mou (about 86,239 acres) of land. Among these farms are the Su-pei Collective Farm in Kiangsu, with 30,000 prisoners; the Yen-shan-hsien Farm in Shantung, with 1,000 prisoners; the Ch'ü-chou District Farm in Chekiang, with 3,000 prisoners;

30. Li Tien-ming, op. cit., pp. 30-31.

•697 the Ning-po District Farm in Kiangsu, with 466 5,500 prisoners, the Kao-Yu Farm in Kiangsu, with 4,000 prisoners; and the Nantung Farm in Kiangsu, with 1,500 prisoners. The number of reform-through-labor prisoners was estimated to be about 800,000 to 900,000 in 1952.[31]

The reform-through-labor corps had also been employed by the new regime to rebuild the old dikes along the seacoast of Chekiang and Kiangsu provinces, some 586 kilometers (about 370 miles) in length. Behind the dikes nearly 1,000,000 hectares (about 2,471,140 acres) of rice and cotton fields in the coastal areas are being cultivated in safety now.[32]

It was reported in Hong Kong that the Communists are mobilizing 60,000 laborers to start a new railway line connecting Amoy in Fukien and Ying-t'an in Kiangsi. There is no doubt that the labor force of this planned project also belongs to the category of this study.[33]

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31. Cheng Chu-yuan, op. cit., pp. 80-81.
32. Kuan-ming Jih-pao [Enlightenment Daily], May 27, 1952.
33. Asia Foundation News Bulletin, August 11, 1955.